

MESSAGE FAIR

The 1980 version of the Natick Mall message fair will run from Monday, December 8 through Sunday, December 14 in our usual spot in the center of the mall. Operation this year will be the same as last year with the usual collection of holiday messages (823 last year) plus displays that should be of interest to the Amateur as well as the non-Amateur visitor. This is, of course, our biggest event of the year and provides an introduction to Amateur Radio to thousands of holiday shoppers at the mall.

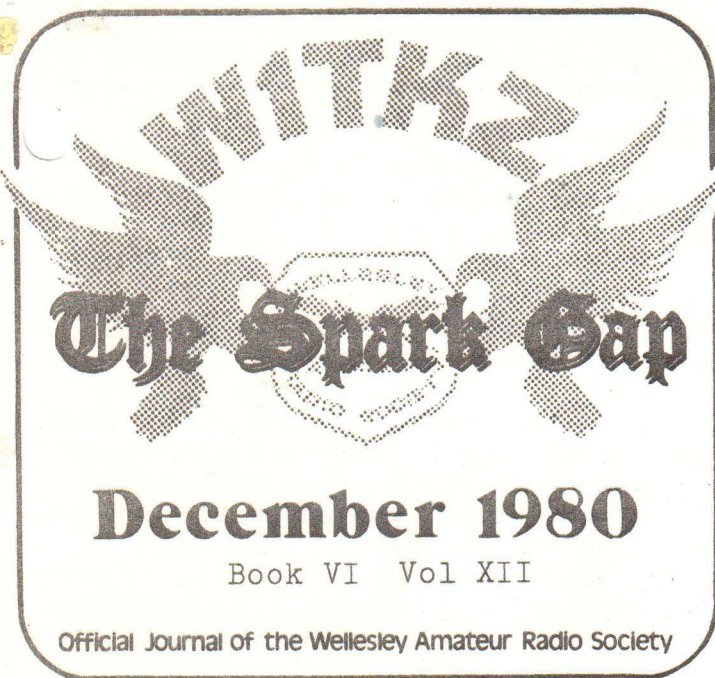
Any input from the members concerning the message fair operation is encouraged, especially new ideas for displays and such, but time is getting short! One idea that was made and will be implemented is to have message forms with the standard holiday messages preprinted on them, so that the people taking messages will only have to check off a message and fill in the address and signature.

Your help is needed as with seven days of operation plus set up and take down a lot of hours are involved. If you can make it any of the weekdays between about 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm, Saturday any time from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, or Sunday afternoon, please sign up now by calling one of the club officers.

One possible change to the above schedule may take place. We have been contacted about holding a message fair in Wellesley Sunday, December 14 which would be our last day at the mall. This would take place during special holiday shopping activities held in the town and would provide some notice of our existence right in the town where we are based. Details have not been worked out, but if we can do this the mall will shut down a day early and we will move a smaller operation to downtown Wellesley. ☐

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

None. See you all at the Natick Mall Message Fair, December 8th through December 14th, 1980.



BANQUET!

The first, hopefully annual, club banquet will be held at Valle's Steak House, 300 Boylston Street (Route 9), Newton on Thursday, December 18th. The restaurant is on Route 9 eastbound, some 4 miles inside Route 128. We will begin at 7:00 pm.

This event is being held as a get together to relax after a long week of work at the message fair and to provide the membership with something different from most of our other activities which are public service oriented. No formal program is planned; this is meant primarily to be a time to gather together and take it easy with other club members and their families.

We are looking forward to a good turnout. Please sign up now, a form is printed at the back of this issue. Hope to see you there! ☐

DuesDuesDues...

If you haven't yet paid your dues, they're past due. Dues remain at \$8.00 and may be sent to Jim Hatherley, W1CTBY, 46 Hobson Street, Brighton, Mass. 02135, or brought to any meeting and paid there. ☐

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

--from "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC,
via ARNS

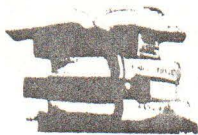
When making an emergency autopatch or taking a call for relay, give specific locations, street names or milepost markers if possible. If none are available, give approximate mileage from the nearest town or give the location of the nearest unusual landmark such as a building or natural formation. Bystanders are frequently a good source of information if you are a stranger in the area. It's a good idea to write down the information, too.

Tell what it is if you are reporting, i.e., accident, drowning, fire, etc.

- 1) Are there any injuries? If so, how many people and to what extent?
- 2) Is an ambulance needed?
- 3) Is anybody pinned in a vehicle?
- 4) Is there a fire, or danger of one?
- 5) Is traffic blocked?
- 6) How many vehicles are involved and what type?
- 7) Is a wrecker needed?
- 8) If a truck is involved, is it empty or loaded? What type of cargo?
Trucks often carry hazardous materials.
- 9) Are there any unusual road conditions?

After your report has been transmitted, stay by your unit until you receive confirmation that your report has been relayed to the emergency service agency. There may be additional information required. ☐

education corner



Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, has about six students in his Tuesday night Novice class. The class started October 14th and will continue through December at least. ☐

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Nr 116, dated November 11, 1980:

Freedom for Amateurs to experiment with digital modes on all bands above 50 MHz has been requested by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. The petition was made public November 10, 1980 by the Federal Communications Commission which assigned the file number RM 3788 to the paper. FCC rules provide an automatic period of 30 days during which any interested party has the right to comment; the rules call for a copy of such comments to be sent to the petitioner, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111. Copies of RM 3788 may be obtained from ARRL; a return envelope is requested. ☐

"New Tickets"



Congratulations to Tony Fusco, WB1FTD, on recently upgrading to Advanced class. Anyone else who upgrades, please let the club know! ☐

hr REPORT

Novice ranks increased 10% in the past year, according to the FCC's figures for the end of August. Novices now total 70,571, with Techs at 69,872, Generals 123,604, Advanced 88,502, and Extra Class 25,728. Total number of licensed operators is 378,277.

hr Report, October 3, 1980

An around the world sail was begun September 28th by WA7WMI, who left Newport Beach, California, with his 41 foot Westsail We Made It. On the westbound cruise he'll attempt to break five world's records for small craft. He'll be operating the Amateur bands on a regular basis, checking into various nets and maintaining regular schedules with W6ELU and alternate WA6WZO. Thanks WA6WZO.

hr Report, October 3, 1980 ☐

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

NELS J. ANDERSON, K1UR
32 WESTGATE ROAD, APT. 6
CHESTNUT HILL, MASS. 02167
323-5029

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SENT THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$8. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



FROM THE MAILBAG



Just a short note to tell you how much I enjoy reading the news in the Spark Gap.

The club is to be commended for the fine projects they have been working on and the achievements they have made these past months.

Your articles are very interesting and inspirational.

Due to the fact that I am no longer working in Wellesley it is sort of inconvenient for me to get over to the meetings.

Most club members I have observed lately tend to gravitate toward their own local friends and acquaintances. My living in Burlington and working in Woburn sort of puts me out of touch with all clubs.

I will continue to enjoy your arti-

cles in the Spark Gap and read of the activities of your club and its members even though I cannot feel at home as a participant. Best good wishes.

73, Phil Broeg, W1HBB

Minutes

Meeting of November 6, 1980:

The meeting was opened by President David Curry, K1TK, at 7:39 pm, with 17 members present.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Announcements were made concerning the banquet, work party November 8th, and Sweepstakes operation November 15 and 16.

A motion was brought up from the repeater committee to sell the duplexers now that the repeater is operating split site. The motion was passed.

The Natick Mall message fair was discussed in detail. Set up will be on Sunday, December 7 and operation will follow from December 8 through December 14. We have also been approached about operating a message fair in Wellesley on December 14 during special downtown shopping days there. This it was decided was worth looking into and if possible will mean the Natick Mall operation will close a day early and move to Wellesley.

The proposal made by a group of individuals locally to use 145.695 MHz as an emergency alert frequency was discussed as they have asked for back-in from local clubs. After discussion it was felt that there was no real need for this and the club members present voted not to support it.

The meeting was closed at 8:39 pm. □

hr REPORT

Questions on FCC rules should no longer be directed to Washington, but instead to the Consumer Assistance Branch in Gettysburg. Their telephone number is (717) 334-7631, and the mailing address is FCC Consumer Assistance Branch, 334 York Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

hr Report, October 10, 1980 □

OLDE TIME RADIO

by Jim Idelson, K1IR

Part Seven

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company had been cautiously observing the radio boom until 1922. Few steps had been taken by the company toward becoming a competitor in the industry. AT&T kept abreast by using the latest developments and the patent alliance to keep its telephone service up to snuff. For instance, a radio link was added in July, 1920 to Cataline Island, providing slightly extended telephone service for California subscribers.

When AT&T did make the decision to enter radio broadcasting, they had to approach the matter from a different angle than anyone had used before. It must be remembered that previously, the other corporations in the alliance that set up stations, derived monetary gains through increased receiver sales. The Telephone Company, though, hadn't any receivers to sell. Some other idea had to be sought.

On July 25, 1922, WBAY went on the air, licensed to AT&T as a "toll" station. The "toll" station idea was formulated to fit snugly into the image of the Telephone Company. Lloyd Espenschied, of AT&T said: "We, the telephone company, were to provide no programs. The public was to come in. Anyone who had a message for the world or wished to entertain was to come in and pay their money as they would upon coming into a telephone booth, address the world, and go out."

WBAY, renamed WEAf, had a hard time getting started. AT&T's subsidiary, Western Electric, was being pressured to deliver many transmitters in the New York City area. AT&T stopped Western Electric from providing transmitters in order to limit the number of potential competitors with WEAf.

There was another problem. How

could WEAf expect to sell time if the station had no listeners? No programs had been aired at the station and therefore, there was no incentive for listeners to tune in to WEAf. When, after a week or more no one had purchased time, AT&T conceded to allow some programming to be aired. There were some broadcasts, mostly with amateur talent, and then, on August 28, 1922 WEAf transmitted the first income producing spot, ten minutes long. Mr. Blackwell of Queensboro Corporation made a speech pushing sales of apartment dwellings in Jackson Heights, New York City. Four additional afternoon talks and one evening talk were aired over the next few weeks.

Though dollars were not pouring in to the station at a particularly alarming rate, major achievements in quality broadcasting were being made. A broadcast of a football game in Chicago was transmitted from WEAf with the description being sent using AT&T long-distance telephone wires. Such long-distance broadcasts continued and with experience, they got better and better in quality.

Requests were coming in at the same time for use of AT&T wires by other broadcasters. The Western Union lines were of insufficient quality to be used for the purpose. AT&T declined to rent or lease lines to any broadcasters. Thus, an iron-clad advantage was given to WEAf. They had technical ability and studio appeal superior to any other station. They were also receiving direct monetary income from their station.

As 1923 began disputes started to erupt in the industry. Both RCA and AT&T became concerned with patent infringement. RCA was selling tubes which were intended to be used only by Amateurs in home built equipment or as replacement parts in RCA produced receiving sets. Although these tubes represented sales, they represented a decline in the potential of RCA complete receiver sales. Sarnoff took steps to limit tubes availability through restricting dealerships and bringing suits against the alleged violators.

The telephone company had a different axe to grind. Only a small percentage of the six hundred transmit-

ters on the air were operating Western Electric transmitters. It was alleged that with the use of the remaining transmitters, if used to transmit "entertainment and news, there was an infringement of the American Company's patent rights." Instead of bringing suit against some five hundred stations, AT&T offered each an alternative. It came in the form of a license fee which would, in return, allow continued operation without fear of lawsuit and, as further incentive, occasional use of AT&T lines for remote broadcasts.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, ASCAP, demanded royalties on use of copyrighted material. WEAF, of course, was first to succumb since AT&T was quite vulnerable, having set up a fee schedule of its own.

In retaliation, the National Association of Broadcasters was formed. They would fight battles against ASCAP and others in the future.

(Further regulation and development toward radio as we now know it was in the near future. We will examine this at month.)

ELECTRONICS EXCHANGE

For Sale: Heath VHF-1 "Seneca", 6 & 2 meter, AM and CW transmitter, 150 watt input; with Turner 254X crystal mic, in excellent condition. See K10GF at club meetings or call 653-1216 after 7:00 pm, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday nights. Asking \$75.00

For Sale: Johnson Matchbox, 250 watt, \$50.00. Heathkit HW-12 with homebrew AC power supply, mic, 100 kHz calibrator, \$60.00. Icom 2 meter FM transceiver IC215, with Heathkit HA201A 2 meter solid state amplifier, 2 Micronta 12 v regulated power supplies, \$150.00 for all. Gonset G50, 6 meter AM transceiver with Astatic J30 mic and stand, \$60.00. Radio table, free!

Contact Roger Smith, W1EOA, at 235-6239.



ACTIVITIES

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

Instead of a regular club meeting on October 16, we spent the evening touring the state Civil Defense headquarters on Route 9 in Framingham. The tour began around 8:00 pm with a short film on the doings of the Civil Defense during the winter of 1978 (remember the blizzard?).

After the film, we were guided around the building which is completely underground and a lot larger than you would think from looking at the site when driving by. Most of the building is office space and such, but in order for it to be self contained during an emergency it also contains a kitchen and facilities for generating electricity during an emergency. Three generators large enough to power dozens of Field Day sites are ready to go at a moments notice. Two large tanks store enough water for quite a stay underground and all the pipes are put together with flexible fittings that look rather like the outer braid on a piece of coax. This prevents the pipes from breaking during an earthquake.

The real heart of the center is a large room with dozens of telephones and a large wall map of the state where most of the activity would take place during an emergency.

Near the end of the tour we finally got into the communications facilities which are what make the facility most visible from outside. Much of the equipment is on the old side, but it did include a fair number of rigs familiar to the Amateur. Included in the equipment were two Drake hf stations for RACES operation. There was also equipment for 6 and 2 meter operation including a Kenwood synthesized two meter rig. The Framingham repeater on 147.75/15 is also located there, allowing it to continue operating in almost any emergency.

The tour ended after about two hours and we headed back out through the 5000 pound steel door that is the main entrance and back up the winding ramp to the outside.

hr REPORT

OFFICERS

Significant implications for Amateur Radio can be inferred from Ronald Reagan's smashing victory in this year's presidential elections. The effects will be felt almost entirely through the FCC, which Washington observers feel will retreat sharply from the recent liberal philosophy under Chairman Ferris that led to directions blurring the distinctions between Amateur Radio and CB.

The transition won't occur quickly, however; Dick Wiley was FCC chairman for almost a year after Jimmy Carter won the presidency in 1976, while the new president tended first to higher priority changes in the Washington hierarchy. During the interim period, expect the Commission to move very slowly, avoiding any appearance of "making waves."

Though this may mean delays in implementing some needed rule making and even access to the new 10.1 MHz band, the more conservative Reagan administration is expected to return Amateur Radio's direction to more traditional paths than it has recently been on.

hr Report, November 7, 1980

PRESIDENT:

David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450

VICE PRESIDENT:

Erik J. Thoresen, K10GF, 653-1216

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, 384-8056

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Nels Anderson, K1UR, 323-5029

TREASURER:

Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, 254-6042

OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Glenn Brodie, N1ACN, 443-8677

FUND RAISING:

Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:

Bill Downing, WA1PQY, 655-3040

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR:

David Curry, K1TK, 756-5325

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

Mort Cohen, KA1IU, 359-7979

ELECTION COMMITTEE:

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091

STATION MANAGER:

Erik J. Thoresen, K10GF, 653-1216

TRUSTEE:

Lud Fasolino, K1LF, 237-0316

REPEATER COMMITTEE:

David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450

Bill Downing, WA1PQY, 655-3040

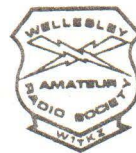
Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ, 235-1599

Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, 762-5074



W.A.R.S. BANQUET

December 18 at 7:00 p.m.
Valles Steak House
Route 9, Newton, Mass.



Name _____ Call _____

Enter number of each dinner in boxes:
(Price includes tax and tip.)

☐ Roast Large Cut Prime Ribs of Beef @ \$11.50 each

☐ Lobster a la Newburg en casserole @ \$10.00 each

Send reservations and payment to:

Nels J. Anderson, K1UR
32 Westgate Road, Apt. 6
Chestnut Hill, Mass. 02167

Make checks payable to "Wellesley Amateur Radio Society"